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TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Applications
Washington D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No. 30096.00001
(must include alphanumeric codes if no inventors named)

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

INVENTOR(S): SCOTT GRAHAM

TITLE: VEHICLE WASH MITT

In connection with this application, the following are enclosed:

APPLICATION ELEMENTS:

XX Specification - 9 TOTAL PAGES

(preferred arrangement:)

- Descriptive Title of the Invention
- Cross Reference to Related Applications
- Statement Regard Fed sponsored R&D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

6 Drawings - Total Sheets 4

XX Declaration and Power of Attorney - Total Sheets 2

XX Newly executed (original or copy)

___ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))

(relates to continuation/divisional boxes completed) - NOTE: Box below

___ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)** - Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

___ **Incorporation By Reference** (useable if copy of prior application
Declaration being submitted)

The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a COPY of the oath or declaration is supplied as noted above, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

___ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)

___ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)

___ Computer Readable Copy

___ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)

___ Statement verifying identify of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ___ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
 ___ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)
 ___ English Translation Document (if applicable)
 ___ Information Disclosure Statement(IDS) with PTO-1449. ___ Copies of IDS Citations
 ___ Preliminary Amendment
XX Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
XX Small Entity Statement(s) ___ Statement filed in prior application, status still proper and desired.
 ___ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) with Claim of Priority
 (if foreign priority is claimed).
XX OTHER: Charge deposit account 02-3292 the filing fee of \$ 345.00

If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

___ Continuation ___ Divisional ___ Continuation-in-part (CIP)
 of prior application Serial No. ___.

___ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the following sentence: --This application is a ___
 continuation, ___ divisional or ___ continuation-in-part of application Serial No. ___, filed ___.--

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

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FEE CALCULATIONS: (Small entity fees indicated in parentheses.)

| (1) For | (2) Number Filed | (3) Number Extra | (4) Rate | (5) Basic Fee \$690 (\$345) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total Claims | 15 - 20 = | 0 | x \$18 (x \$9) | 0 |
| Independent Claims | 1 - 3 = | 0 | x \$78 (x \$39) | 0 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims | | | \$260 (\$130) | 0 |
| Assignment Recording Fee per property | | | \$40 | 0 |
| TOTAL FEE: | | | | \$345.00 |

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$345.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-3292. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-3292.

Susan E. Shaw McBee
Susan E. Shaw McBee
Reg. No. 39,294

Date: March 14, 2000
Docket No.: 30096.00001

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b)) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

Docket Number:
30096.00001

Applicant, Patentee, or identifier: Scott Graham

Application or Patent No.: FILED CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH

Filed or issued: FILED CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH

Title: VEHICLE WASH MITT

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 2.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
☐ the application identified above.
☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☐ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
☒ Each such person, concern, or organization in listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

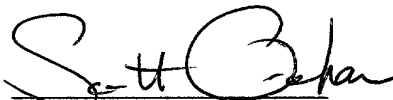
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

Scott Graham

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR



Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

Signature of inventor

3/12/00
Date

Date

Date

Attorney Docket No. 30096.1

Inventor: Scott Graham

Title: Vehicle Wash Mitt

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 This invention relates to manual vehicle washing devices, more specifically a protective mitt for covering manual vehicle wash brushes.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 Foaming brushes used at self-service car washes are typically a brush connected to a wand pipe. A soapy lather is dispensed through the brush. An example of one is shown in Figure 1. The lather serves to loosen and remove dirt and substances from the exterior of the car as well as provide lubrication for the brush. Typically bristles used for brushes include plastics such as PROLENE®, NYLEX®, nylon, or hog hair bristle.

15 Such foaming brushes have disadvantages in their use. Foaming brushes can be ineffective in removing the film that is left behind by dirt, dust and exposure to the elements, as well as by the soap used to wash the vehicle. These brushes have a tendency to scratch vehicles with their bristles. They are also can trap dirt particles such as sand and other miscellaneous particles that tend to scratch vehicles.

20 The prior art discloses various car washing devices. For example, U.S. Patent No. 3,589,819 discloses a car wash mitt that has a water supply attached to it and is worn on the hand of the user. The water is supplied to the mitt via a central receptacle. A foraminous base plate causes the water exiting the mitt to be evenly spread. The base plate is removable and allows the loading of a soap bar or pellet into the receptacle so that soapy water can be

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discharged. When the user desires to rinse the soapy water off of the car, the baseplate is once more removed thereby permitting the removal of the soap.

U.S. Patent No. 4,696,593 discloses a car wash mitt that is adapted to be worn on the hand of the individual user. The mitt is formed from sponge material and has a liquid soap reservoir. The glove is supplied with water by a flexible hose. The glove can be connected to a garden hose to provide a source of water.

U.S. Patent No. 4,961,662 discloses a brush head carrier for attachment to a faucet by means of a hose to permit the flow of water through the brush head carrier. A plurality of separately useable brush heads are individually removably mounted on the carrier at a relatively wide opening at the surface of the carrier.

U.S. Patent No. 5,373,601 discloses a washing mitt that allows the user's hand to fit into the inner end of the sleeve. The sleeve is designed to prevent the accidental rotation of the mitt on the hand of the user.

This prior art does not teach or suggest a device that is more effective in removing the dirty film that can be left behind by a bristle brush. There is no teaching from this prior art of a device that prevents the scratching associated with that of a bristle brush.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention a vehicle washing mitt has been developed for covering vehicle washing brushes, for use on brushes used to wash vehicles, such as those at self-service car washes.

The use of the term "vehicle" includes any type of vehicle that has an exterior in need of washing. Such vehicles include consumer vehicles such as cars, sports utility vehicles, pick

up trucks, minivans, vans, recreational vehicles, mobile homes, motorcycles, etc. Vehicle may also include vehicles that are used for commercial purposes such as vans, minivans, trucks, buses, etc. Other vehicles used for transportation such as boats, airplanes or military vehicles are also contemplated for use with this invention.

5 The term "self-service vehicle wash" includes any vehicle washing facility where vehicles are regularly washed manually. A typical example of a self-service vehicle wash is a self-service car wash that is business that is open to the public, where patrons pay for certain amount of time to use the facilities. Self-service vehicle washes also exist at private, government or military institutions where a large number of vehicles are regularly washed. For example, race tracks have such self-service vehicle washes for the washing of race cars. Airports and harbors also have self-service vehicle washes for the washing of airplanes and boats, respectively. A self-serve vehicle washing station typically provides brushes that attach to the end of a wand which is secured to the end of hose. Soapy water is passed through the hose at a high rate of pressure and dispersed through the brush onto the vehicle. Rinse water
10
15 can then be passed through the wand to rinse the vehicle.

 These together with other various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings
20 and descriptive matter in which there is illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and advantages other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

- 5 Figure 1 is a perspective representation of a prior-art vehicle washing brush;
- Figure 2 is a drawing is a perspective representation of a the present invention covering the brush of Figure 1;
- Figure 3 is a top rear perspective representation of the present invention;
- Figure 4 is a front view thereof; and
- 10 Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of Figure 2.
- Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference now will be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

- 15 Figure 2 shows the mitt 10 covering a typical brush 11 used at a vehicle wash facility such as a self-service car wash. The mitt 10 is secured over the brush 11 by the use of velcro straps 12 that are sewn into the material of the mitt 10. The mitt 10 is preferably made from a sheet-like material having two surfaces on which one surface is made up of soft fibers and the other surface is smooth. Examples of such material are sherpa or sheepskin. Sherpa is
- 20 considered advantageous because it is better able to endure repeated use and exposure to an outside environment than sheepskin. Various grades of sherpa are contemplated for use in the invention, for example 60 oz. sherpa, although heavier or lighter grades of sherpa are also

contemplated, such as sherpa grades between 20 to 60 ozs. Examples of such grades in this range of sherpa are well known in the art and include 20, 32, 44, 51 and 60 oz. grades. The material that the mitt 10 is made of is capable of allowing the passage of the soapy water that is being ejected from the brush and have a fiber-filled surface external to that of the brush.

5 The fibers are preferably capable of washing the surface of a car or other vehicle without causing undue scratching. Also, an advantage of such soft fibrous material is that it is able to better remove fine dirt and dust as well as any soap scum that a brush might leave behind.

The invention is made by cutting a pattern of the selected material in a shape capable of being sewn into an open box shape. An example of the dimensions of such an open box is 9" l x 3" w x 3.5" h. In one embodiment of the invention, a foam pad 13 as shown in Figure 3 may be sewn onto the surface opposite that of the fibrous material so that the foam pad 13 will be at the base of the open box shape. The foam pad 13 serves to aid in suds formation and to evenly disperse the water. In another embodiment, the foam pad is not used. The mitt 10 is not limited to a box shape, but rather may be made into any shape that can suitably fit around a vehicle washing brush, such as in a circular shape to fit around a circular brush.

As shown in the cross-sectional diagram of Figure 5, the upper part of the material forms a hem 14 that serves to secure the velcro straps 12. The foam pad is not used in the embodiment of Figure 5. The hem 14 provides a durable edge and anchors the velcro straps. Inside the hem 14 an elastic material, such as a shock cord 15 may be placed to aid the mitt 10 in forming a secure seal over the brush. The velcro straps 12 may be replaced by any other suitable fasteners such as string or rope or any other material capable of being tied, or straps that fasten with buttons or buckles. Although two straps are shown in Figures 2-4, a single strap or more than three straps may be used as long as the mitt 10 is secured on the brush in a

way that allows the mitt 10 to remain on the brush while water is being discharged through the brush. Likewise, there may be one or more fasteners such as belts, straps or material capable of being tied together, such as rope or string.

Figure 6 is a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment where the velcro straps 12 are attached to the top of the mitt 10 without the use of a hem 14. On the top edge of the mitt 10, an elastic sheet 16 approximately two inches wide and long enough to cover the mitt 10 is folded in half over the top edge of the mitt 10. The edges of the velcro straps 17 are placed under the elastic sheet and the elastic sheet and strap edges are sewn together into the mitt 10.

While the present invention is especially suited for use in covering brushes at self-service vehicle washes, it is not limited to such uses. For example, the mitt 10 may be used on someone's hand. The hand is inserted into the compartment where the brush is able to fit into and secured by the use of the velcro straps 12 or other such fasteners.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A mitt for use with a vehicle washing brush comprising:

a material formed into the approximate shape of said washing brush, wherein said material is capable of fitting around said washing brush, and said material has a first surface facing and in contact with said washing brush, and a second surface opposite said first surface facing away from said washing brush, and wherein said second surface is woven with fibers capable of washing a surface of a vehicle, and said material is capable of allowing the passage of water from said washing brush;

a fastener capable of securing said mitt onto said brush while water passes through said washing brush.

2. The mitt of claim 1, wherein said material is capable of fitting around said washing brush covering the bottom and all four sides of said washing brush, with an aperture on the top of said mitt, wherein said aperture is capable of allowing the passage of said washing brush into said mitt. 3. The mitt of claim 1, wherein said fastener comprises at least one velcro strap.

4. The mitt of claim 1, wherein said fastener comprises at least one pair of pieces of material capable of being tied, fastened, buckled or buttoned together.

5. The mitt of claim 1, wherein said material is sherpa or sheepskin.

6. The mitt of claim 2, wherein the top edge of said material is sewn into a hem around said aperture.

7. The mitt of claim 6, wherein said hem encloses an elastic material capable of forming a tighter seal around said brush.

8. The mitt of claim 1, wherein an elastic sheet is sewn around the top edge of said material.

9. The mitt of claim 1, wherein said mitt is provided at a self-service vehicle wash.

10. A method of washing a vehicle comprising:

selecting a vehicle washing brush attached to an assembly for delivering water;

attaching the mitt of claim 1 to said brush;

allowing said assembly to deliver said water through said brush and said mitt;

applying said water to said vehicle while washing the surface of said vehicle.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said water is soapy water.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said water is rinse water.

13. A method of washing a vehicle comprising:

attaching the mitt of claim 1 to a hand of a user;

applying water to said vehicle while washing the surface of said vehicle.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said water is soapy water.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said water is rinse water.

ABSTRACT

A vehicle washing mitt for covering vehicle washing brushes, such as those at self-service car washes. The mitt is shaped to effectively cover the vehicle washing brush while it is in use. The material used to form the mitt has a soft fibrous external outside and is secured on to the brush with a fastener. Methods of washing a vehicle by using the mitt.

5

PRIOR ART

FIG. 1



FIG. 2

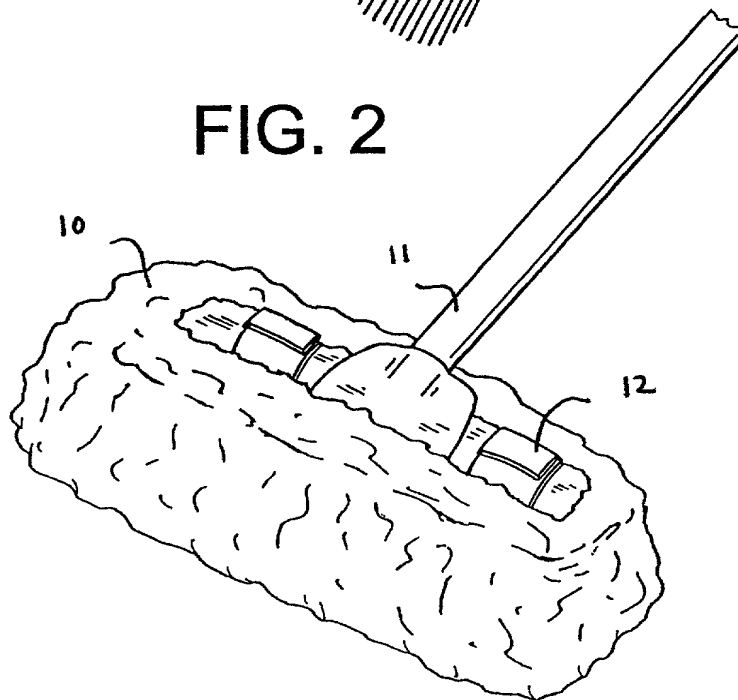


FIG. 3

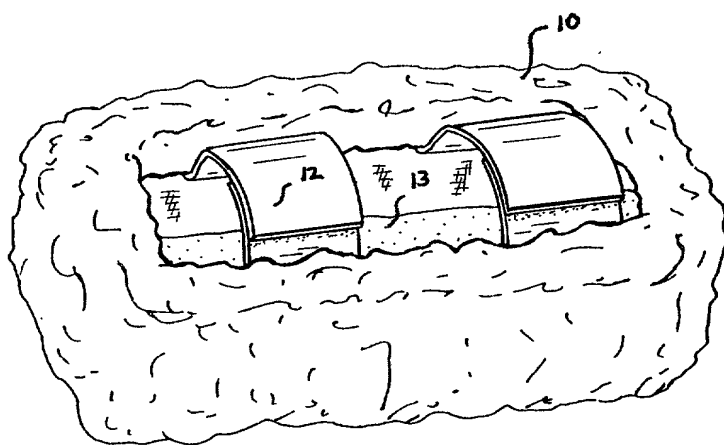


FIG. 4

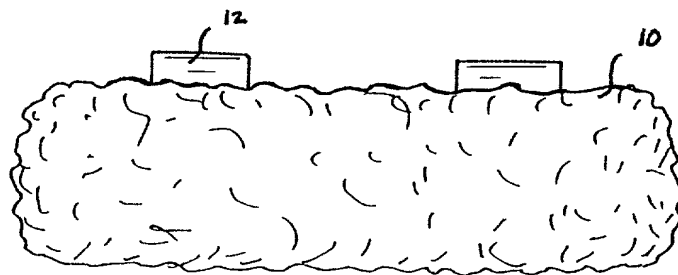


FIG. 5

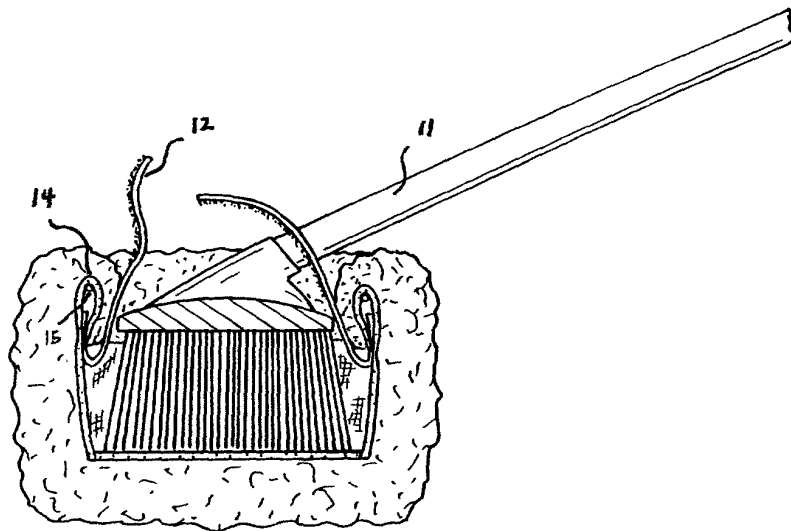
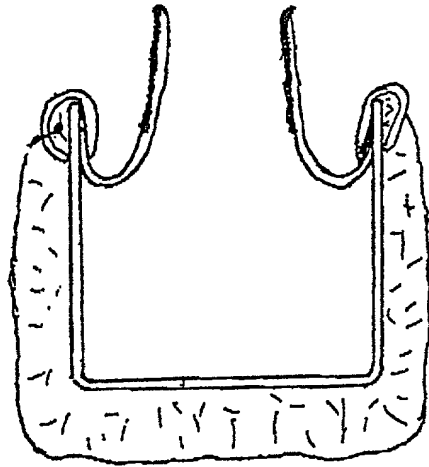


FIG. 6



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I HEREBY DECLARE:

THAT my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

THAT I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below or in an attached Declaration) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

VEHICLE WASH MITT

30096.00001

the specification of which (check one)

XX is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was ever known or used by others in the United States of America, or was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, before I (we) invented it;

THAT I do not know and do not believe that the same invention was patented or described in any printed publication in any country, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America, for more than one year prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I do not know and do not believe was first patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate that issued in any country foreign to the United States of America before the filing date of this United States application if the foreign application was filed by me (us), or by my (our) legal representatives or assigns, more than twelve months (six months for design patents) prior to the filing date of this United States application;

THAT I have reviewed and understand that contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

THAT I believe that the above-identified specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention, and sets forth the best mode contemplated by me of carrying out the invention; and

THAT I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I HEREBY APPOINT the following registered attorneys and agents of the law firm of Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love PLLC to have full power to prosecute this application and any continuations, divisions, reissues, and reexaminations thereof, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the United States Patent

Attorney Docket No: 30096.00001

and Trademark Office connected therewith:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------|
| Susan E. Shaw McBee | Reg. No. | 39,294 |
| Matthew Mulkeen | Reg. No. | 44,250 |

and I request that all correspondence be directed to:

Susan E. Shaw McBee
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Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 682-3711
(202) 682-3087

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT the foregoing attorneys and agents appointed by me to prosecute this application do not personally represent me or my legal interests, but instead represent the interests of the legal owner(s) of the invention described in this application.

I FURTHER DECLARE THAT all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Date 3/12/00